

ARTHUR PHILLIPS- professional artist and art teacher since 1971. His work has continually evolved throughout his life as a painter - exploring many mediums from pen and ink, drawing, oils, acrylics, pastels and watercolour leading to an eclectic range of works. His preferred medium over the last decade is watercolour and Arthur is highly regarded for his thought provoking abstract paintings.

Arthur's early works were often architecturally based – portraying local historical buildings in both Tasmania and South Australia in pen and watercolour and drawings. This led to illustrating a series of Rigby Sketchbooks and his collaboration with highly acclaimed writer Patsy Adam-Smith author of the Port Arthur and Launceston sketchbooks. His mid-career and later works portraying Port Adelaide's industrial scenes – often compelling - displays a deep connection. Born in England - these paintings pay homage to his early years as a child living near the coal mining towns in northern England where life was hard for the average working family. His family migrated to Australia in 1949. His early recollections of growing up in country Victoria alongside the river in Rochester and attending school in Eucha - evoke wonderful memories of an exciting new life for a small English boy. His father was a newspaper compositor by trade and the family moved many times as his father worked in country newspapers. Arthur's first job was as an auctioneer's clerk for Dalgety's. He then qualified as a newspaper compositor whilst working as a freelance illustrator for an advertising agency. Later as an illustrator for the Education Department in Hobart whilst attending the Tasmanian School of Art. This led to his transition to Adelaide. Arthur sees his artistic journey as a life-time journey of discovery which began as a child in England – his passion for art has never waned.

In the 1960s when acrylics was still a relatively new medium his work progressed to photo-realism and surrealism. He arrived in Adelaide in 1971 – working as both a compositor with the Adelaide News and also a young emerging artist in the exciting Adelaide art scene. Adelaide was then considered the “Arts Capital of Australia”. He was immediately approached by Ailsa Osborne from the Osborne Gallery in Adelaide where he went on to become a regular exhibitor alongside many of Australia's foremost leading artists. Arthur soon became a well-known artist – in times when it was a common weekly event to be “mentioned” or appraised by the Advertiser art critics.

At the sad closing of the Osborne Gallery – Arthur was invited to join the stable of well-known Australian artists represented by the Newton Gallery. Over the decades he has exhibited widely throughout Adelaide's galleries and has a reputation as a leading Adelaide artist – and a much loved art teacher. His passion, generosity and humour and his ability to bring knowledge to many thousands of adult students over the years – has made him an Adelaide legend and a highly valued art teacher. Arthur is greatly respected for his specific interest and knowledge of the history of watercolours and techniques – resulting in him conducting numerous workshops for the Art Gallery of South Australia including during “Turner from the Tate” exhibition.

Arthur is married to Margaret Slape-Phillips local Adelaide artist and art teacher.